



Recreational Trails Program

Eligible/Ineligible Project Types and Activities

Not all activities are eligible to be used as RTP expenses or match. The following is a list of eligible and non-eligible projects types. Contact the RTP Manager if you are unsure about the eligibility of your project expenses or match. RTP funds can only reimburse project expenditures incurred after the project start date and identified in the approved Funding Strategy Narrative and Budget forms.

Eligible Project Types

- Trail projects on routes legally designated or otherwise appropriately approved by the land managing agency.
- Trails that are not currently under litigation in a court of law.
- Construction and maintenance of trails:
 - Clearing/brushing on federal lands will only be allowed to the standard clearing widths identified in the appropriate federal agency trail guidelines.
 - On federal lands, grants will only be approved for trails legally designated by the appropriate federal agency that are included in recognized forest plans, resource area plans, or travel plans.
 - Broad scale maintenance will require specific trail identification and specific description of work to be accomplished.
 - Weed control related to a trail or trail projects.
- Restoration of areas damaged by trail use.
- Development of trailside and trailhead facilities (buildings and facilities that are newly constructed or altered with federal funds are subject to the accessibility requirements contained in the Uniform Accessibility Standards).
- Providing features to assist individuals with disabilities.
- Development of urban trail linkages near homes and work places.
- Operation of trails-related environmental protection and safety education programs.
- Trails information, ethics education, and interpretive information.
- Acquisition of easements and fee simple title of property for trails.
- Signs and other traffic control devices relating to trail use (such devices must conform to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices).
- Purchase of trail-specific equipment to be used on a long-term or seasonal basis and that is not available through rent or lease. The applicant must identify a methodology for long-term operation and maintenance of the equipment. Equipment must clearly and solely benefit trail users and not be used in other settings. Equipment should be rented if it will not be used for ongoing maintenance specific to the proposed trail or trail systems.

Ineligible Project Types

- Land acquisition by condemnation.
- Facilities (shelters, toilets, picnic tables, benches, etc.) located in park settings which are not clearly and solely for the benefit of trail users versus an enhancement for park users.
- Feasibility studies and planning.
- Law enforcement activities.
- Projects managed as profit-making entities.
- Trail projects on routes not legally designated by the appropriate land managing agency.
- Projects that displace fish and wildlife species, reduce habitat effectiveness, cause irreparable damage to vegetation, soils, water and wild public lands, and/or substantially increase conflicts.
- Trails, or any project pertaining to that trail, currently under litigation in a court of law.
- Projects that have the potential to substantially alter legal use patterns or make the trail substantially less desirable for the spectrum of current users.
- Construction of any recreational trail on National Forest System land for any motorized use unless:
 - the land has been designated for uses other than wilderness by an approved forest land and resource management plan or has been released to uses other than wilderness by an Act of Congress; and
 - the construction is otherwise consistent with the management direction in the approved forest land and resource management plan.
- Construction of any recreational trail on Bureau of Land Management land for any motorized use unless the land:
 - has been designated for uses other than wilderness by an approved Bureau of Land Management resource management plan or has been released to uses other than wilderness by an Act of Congress; and
 - the construction is otherwise consistent with the management direction in the approved management plan.
- Upgrading, expanding, or otherwise facilitating motorized use or access to recreational trails predominantly used by nonmotorized recreational trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use was prohibited or had not occurred.
- Projects that destroy or compromise the special characteristics of roadless lands.
- Conversion of rural/backcountry single track trails to double track trails or the conversion of double track trails to routes wide enough to accommodate motor vehicles (cars, trucks).
- Motorized projects in wilderness study areas or inventoried roadless areas except for projects that rehabilitate areas damaged by use including trails.